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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Fischer Speech on Future Plans for the  
GAI and the Police

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1. On 2 September 1948 at 17:00, Fischer, the President of the German Administration of the Interior, addressed a meeting of the 'Employees' Group of the SED in the Volkshaus of the GAI in Wilhelmsruhe. He spoke for an hour on the subject of "The Function of the Police and the GAI."
2. The main points of his speech are given below:

"During the past three years the foundations for a democratic reconstruction of Germany have been laid. The land reform, the expropriation of industrial combines and large estates, the punishment of war criminals and Nazi activists, the establishment of the publicly-owned enterprises were all steps in the right direction. The half-year plan for 1948 and the two-year plan will assist in the peaceful reconstruction of the economy, but this peaceful work is being threatened by developments in the western zones. There the capitalist society is planning to regain forcibly those areas lost to socialism. Capital, supported by the military governments of the western powers, is making all preparations for a civil war against the socialist democracy of the Eastern Zone. It is for this very purpose that the black troops have been organized under Colonel General Guderian, and are now being equipped with, and trained in, the use of medium and heavy artillery. A similar role is being played by the so-called Industrial Police under the leadership of the former General Staff Chief, Halder.

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Comment: It is not known what organization Fischer referred to when he spoke of "black troops". The Industrial Police, whom he also mentions, actually wear black uniforms.)

"Patriotic groups like the Stahlhelm have also been permitted to reorganize. All these Germans have been politically aroused by Adenauer, Schumacher, and others, all of whom are paid servants of Wall Street. They have been inciting these Germans and systematically preparing them for the day when they will be colonial soldiers of the USA in a fight against the Eastern Zone.

"As a result of this development, class warfare in all its many variations is rising all over Germany. The prerequisite for a successful battle against the enemies of the working class is a strong government.

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The most important function, therefore, of the GAI is to do everything it can to strengthen the government and develop it into an effective weapon of class warfare. The police, as the armed section of the government, is the most important group.

"During the last three years the foundations for the democratic reconstruction of Germany have started from below. It has been demonstrated that this method of development is hindered by state borders. The time has come for a unified and thoroughly-organized government to be set up.

"A similar reorganization must also take place within the armed section of the government -- the police. Important new functions within the state administration must justify its position as guardian of the working man. A higher technical and political standard is necessary. People with undecided ideologies have no place in the administration; moreover, a clear external political orientation is required. Everyone must understand absolutely that there are only two alternatives. A compromise between East and West is merely an illusion, and will always lead into the capitalist camp. Thus no administrative employee may show any deviation from Eastern orientation. This must also be guarded against in the GAI.

"The most important task, therefore, is to set up a unified, well-organized, well-armed, well-disciplined, and powerful police. Every member of the police must have good professional training. This does not, however, mean that a good knowledge of the penal code is sufficient. After all, the whole legal code is of questionable value now, as it was envisaged for a capitalist society, and served only as an instrument for the suppression of the laboring masses. The penal code, as well as the civil code, are expressions of capitalist, bourgeois ideas of law, the emphasis being on the security of private ownership and the right of heredity. Property of the people or democratic land ownership are not included. New laws will have to be formulated which will take into account these new social conditions.

"Thus it will be the function of the GAI, within the next few weeks, maybe even within the next few days, to put these legal concepts as they affect the police into actual directives. A statute for the GAI, official procedures and regulations for the police, will have to be formulated. This must be worked out with speed and precision. Delays will be avoided. Every bureaucratic action will be considered as sabotage and punished accordingly.

"The third task will be the introduction of an iron discipline into the service. In order to achieve this goal we may have to accept the necessity of permitting such things as standing at attention, drills, decorations, insignia of rank, and maybe even the epaulets of general officers. It is but a side issue that the black, red, and gold flag, with the police star superimposed on it, will fly over the GAI building. The outside form is not important, it is the inner content that counts. The purpose is determined by the party. Therefore it is absolutely necessary that the party's purpose be carried out with iron discipline. It is only in this manner that the police, as the armed section of the government, can fulfill its function."

3. In the discussion which followed this speech, Bialek, head of the Political and Cultural section, said that a pacifist apathy similar to the one after 1918, was dangerous for the entire concept of class warfare, and that the enemy was aware of this sentiment, and his agents were fostering this pacifism in the Eastern Zone.

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